Increase in TB Cases

579. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tuberculosis (T.B.) cases have increased many folds in the recent past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deaths on account of Tuberculosis have also increased;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that required attention has not been given to this disease and much attention is being given to disease like AIDS etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of TB cases reported under National TB Control Programme (NTCP) have been more or less static during last few years. As per latest ARTI survey (2000-03), the incidence of new sputum positive cases is 75/lakh population as compared to 85/lakh prior to year 2000.

(b) Consequent upon implementation of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) since 1997, currently covering about 1030 million population, treatment success rate has tripled from 25% to 85% and death rate has been cut 7 fold from 29% to about 4% among patients registered under RNTCP. As per WHO latest estimates, death rate due to TB has declined from 45/lakh in 1990 to 33/lakh in 2003.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. Adequate attention is also being given to TB Control activities in the country.

Revised National TB control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, is being implemented since year 1997 in a phased manner as a 100% Centrally sponsored Scheme.

Presently, about 1030 million population in more than 575 districts/ reporting units has been covered under the revised strategy. It is proposed to cover the entire country under the programme during the current year.